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PAGE 01 ACTION HA-09 BEIJIN 16315 171112Z

OASY-00 DODE-00 EAP-01 CIAE-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 H - 0.1ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 /017W

------47B647 171115Z /25 O 171113Z MAY 94

FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3656

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EAP FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LORD HA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHATTUCK

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, PREL, CH

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DECISION TO PROSECUTE WEI JINGSHENG

FOR TREASON

1. UPON LEARNING OF MAY 16 UPI REPORT BY NICK DRIVER ALLEGING THAT CHINA IS PREPARING TO PROSECUTE WEI JINGSHENG ON TREASON CHARGES FOR ASKING FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT HELP IN PRESSURING CHINA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS, DCM CALLED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR ZHANG YISHAN TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF WEI STATUS. ZHANG REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS REPORT BUT SAID HE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BEIJIN 16315 171112Z LET THE DCM KNOW IF HE LEARNED ANYTHING. HE ALSO NOTED A TENDENCY, IN HIS VIEW, OF REPORTERS TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THINGS THEY MIGHT HEAR.

2. AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY SOUGHT TO CONTACT ASSISTANT MINISTER QIN HUASUN BUT QIN HAD ALREADY LEFT THE OFFICE FOR THE DAY. AMBASSADOR WILL TRY TO CONTACT QIN TOMORROW AND SEEK CLARIFICATION OF WEI'S STATUS.

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